

Sketch

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Did You Ever

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Did You Ever

Alicia Patterson

Did you ever...

wake up late on a Saturday morning
to find yourself staring up at a figure
standing next to your bed
dressed in nothing but old Hanes briefs;

wake up late on a Saturday morning
to find this man called dad
pulling back your favorite blanket and
crawling into your bed;

wake up late on a Saturday morning
to find yourself searching under your pillow
for a pocketknife you had
purchased earlier in the week;

wake up late on a Saturday morning
to find yourself turning towards a pale, blank wall
your fingers gripping an unopened pocketknife with
tears sliding down your cheeks;

wonder if maybe
just maybe
he would fall asleep
before his hand
moved further
up your leg?

did you ever...

find a granny knife buried in the yard
and wonder
how sharp the razor like edge really was
as you washed the dirt off in the bathroom sink;

dry off the knife with a handtowel
and then lay the shining blade against
the soft
fleshy
underside of your forearm
and wonder
how deep it would cut;

trace the tip of the granny knife
along the slightly bulging
bluish vein
running from the top of your wrist
to the bend of your elbow;

again
and again

until the skin finally parts
and the faded blue vein
slowly changes
to a brilliant
crimson
red

as you make
one
final
pass...

